

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 02343 240013Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----112038 240020Z /20
O 232244Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6746

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 2343

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY), BR
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: CALL AT SUPREME FEDERAL TRIBUNAL

1. CHARGE INFORMED FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA AFTERNOON MARCH 23 THAT AT THE MOMENT, WASHINGTON IS NOT PLANNING A VISIT BY PRESIDENT CARTER TO SUPREME FEDERAL TRIBUNAL (STF). SILVEIRA, WHO HAD EARLIER DRAWN CHARGE ASIDE AT RECEPTION TO STRESS IMPORTANCE OF CALL, REACTED SHARPLY, SAYING HE REGRETS DECISION VERY MUCH. HE STRESSED THAT THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST CHIEF OF STATE VISIT WHICH DID NOT INCLUDE CALL AT STF. HE OBSERVED THAT SUCH CALLS MAY NOT BE THE CUSTOM IN THE US, BUT THEY CERTAINLY ARE THE CUSTOM IN BRAZIL; THAT FAILURE TO INCLUDE CALL WOULD BE WIDELY NOTED BECAUSE IT IS SO EXCEPTIONAL AND WOULD BE THE CAUSE OF MUCH POINTED SPECULATION.
2. CHARGE STRESSED THAT TRIBUNAL'S PLANS FOR RECEIVING PRESIDENT HAVE ALTERED CONSIDERABLY SINCE THE EVENT WAS PUT ON THE SCHEDULE LAST WEEK, AND ALSO THAT SCHEDULE FOR THURSDAY MORNING IS OVERLOADED.
3. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS DECISION TO CANCEL VISIT BE REVERSED, IF NECESSARY BY DELAYING DEPARTURE FOR RIO BY FIFTEEN MINUTES. CLEARLY, CALL IS TRADITIONAL, CUSTOMARY

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRASIL 02343 240013Z

COURTESY HERE, AND AS FOREIGN MINISTER HAS ALREADY TWICE INDICATED, TOP LEVEL GOB OFFICIALS WILL BE SORELY MIFFED IF STF IS OMITTED. THIS WILL DETRACT FROM OVERALL ATMOSPHERE OF TALKS (AS WASHINGTON IS AWARE, THE ATMOSPHERE HAS ALREADY BEEN CLOUDED BY THE PUBLICITY SURROUNDING THE MEETING WITH CARDINAL ARNS). VISIT TO STF HAS DRAWN CONSIDERABLE PRESS ATTENTION AND COMMENTARY INCLUDING

MENTION OF PREVIOUS DISTINGUISHED VISITORS - E.G., RECENTLY
PRESIDENT OF URUGUAY - WHO ALSO OPTED FOR INFORMAL VISIT
AND WERE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT OF COURT ALONE, AND CHANGE
OF SIGNALS WILL SURELY RECEIVE ADVERSE PUBLICITY. IT
WOULD ALSO BE VIEWED AS A DELIBERATE SNUB OF THE CIVILIAN
BRANCH OF THE JUDICIARY (THERE IS A WIDE MILITARY COURT
SYSTEM, FROM WHICH APPEALS CAN BE ADDRESSED TO THE STF) AT
A TIME WHEN THE RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONALITY AND THE RULE
OF LAW (AS COMPARED WITH THE ARBITRARINESS OF THE
INSTITUTIONAL ACTS) AND THE PROTECTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL
AGAINST VIOLATIONS OF HIS BASIC RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS ARE
BRAZIL'S MOST PRESSING PUBLIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES.
JOHNSON

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NNN

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